

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-2 (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The coated superabsorbent polymer particulate of claim [[1]] 29 wherein the coating is selected from the group consisting of calcium chloride, sodium chloride, potassium chloride, calcium nitrate, magnesium chloride, aluminum sulfate, aluminum chloride and ferric chloride.

4. (Currently Amended) The coated superabsorbent polymer particulate of claim [[1]] 29 having a delayed free water absorption property of absorbing about 3 grams or less of water per gram of superabsorbent polymer in about 15 seconds.

5. (Currently Amended) The coated superabsorbent polymer particulate of claim [[1]] 29 having a delayed free water absorption property of absorbing about 2 grams or less of water per gram of superabsorbent polymer in about 15 seconds.

6. (Currently Amended) The coated superabsorbent polymer particulate of claim [[1]] 29 having a delayed free water absorption property of absorbing about 1 gram or less of water per gram of superabsorbent polymer in about 15 seconds.

Claim 7 (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) The coated superabsorbent polymer particulate of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 29 having ~~a delayed free water absorption property of absorbing about 3.6 grams or less of water per gram of superabsorbent polymer in about 15 seconds,~~ a centrifuge retention capacity of retaining 28 grams or more of aqueous saline per gram of superabsorbent polymer and having an absorbency under load at 0.9 psi of retaining more than 13 grams of aqueous saline per gram of superabsorbent polymer.

9. (Currently Amended) The coated superabsorbent polymer particulate of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 29 having a delayed free water absorption property of absorbing about 3 grams or less of water per gram of superabsorbent polymer in about 15 seconds, a centrifuge retention capacity of retaining 25 grams or more of aqueous saline per gram of superabsorbent polymer and having an absorbency under load at 0.9 psi of retaining more than 18 grams of aqueous saline per gram of superabsorbent polymer.

10. (Currently Amended) A coated superabsorbent polymer particulate comprising

a) a superabsorbent polymer particulate comprising from about 55 to about 99.9 wt.% of polymerizable unsaturated acid group containing monomers; and

from about 0.001 to about 5.0 wt.% of internal crosslinking agent based on the polymerizable unsaturated acid group containing monomer; wherein the composition has a degree of neutralization of more than about ~~[[20]]~~ 25%; and

b) from about 0.5 to about 20 wt.% of a salt coating on the superabsorbent polymer particulate surface

wherein the coated superabsorption polymer particulate having a delayed free water absorption property of absorbing about 3 grams or less of water per gram of superabsorbent polymer in about 15 seconds wherein the salt coating is selected from calcium chloride, sodium chloride, potassium chloride, calcium nitrate, magnesium chloride, aluminum sulfate, aluminum chloride and ferric chloride ~~wherein the coating is free of organic solvent.~~

Claims 11-13 (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) The coated superabsorbent polymer particulate of claim 10 having a delayed free water absorption property of absorbing about 2 grams or less of water per gram of superabsorbent polymer in about 15 seconds.

15. (Previously Presented) The coated superabsorbent polymer particulate of claim 10 having a delayed free water absorption property of absorbing about 1 gram or less of water per gram of superabsorbent polymer in about 15 seconds.

Claim 16 (Canceled)

17. (Previously Presented) The coated superabsorbent polymer particulate of claim 10 having a delayed free water absorption property of absorbing about 3.6 grams or less of water per gram of superabsorbent polymer in about 15 seconds, a centrifuge retention capacity of retaining 28 grams or more of aqueous saline per gram of superabsorbent polymer and having an absorbency under load at 0.9 psi of retaining more than 13 grams of aqueous saline per gram of superabsorbent polymer.

18. (Previously Presented) The coated superabsorbent polymer particulate of claim 10 having a delayed free water absorption property of absorbing about 2 grams or less of water per gram of superabsorbent polymer in about 15 seconds, a centrifuge retention capacity of retaining 25 grams or more of aqueous saline per gram of superabsorbent polymer and having an absorbency under load at 0.9 psi of retaining more than 18 grams of aqueous saline per gram of superabsorbent polymer.

19. (Previously Presented) The coated superabsorbent polymer particulate of claim 10 having a delayed free water absorption property of absorbing about 1 gram or less of water per gram of superabsorbent polymer in about 15 seconds, a centrifuge retention capacity of retaining 28 grams or more of aqueous saline per gram of superabsorbent polymer and having an absorbency under load at 0.9 psi of retaining more than 16 grams of aqueous saline per gram of superabsorbent polymer.

Claims 20-28 (Canceled)

29. (New) A coated surface crosslinked superabsorbent polymer composition comprising a superabsorbent polymer comprising:

- a) from about 55% to about 99.9 % by weight of the superabsorbent polymer of polymerizable unsaturated acid group containing monomer based on the superabsorbent polymer; and
- b) from about 0.001% to about 5% by weight of internal crosslinking agent based on the polymerizable unsaturated acid group containing monomer;

wherein the superabsorbent polymer has a degree of neutralization of greater than about 25%; wherein elements a) and b) are polymerized and prepared into superabsorbent polymer particles;

further comprising on the surface of the superabsorbent polymer particles

(c) from about 0.001% to about 5% by weight of surface crosslinking agent based on the dry superabsorbent polymer composition; wherein the superabsorbent polymer particles of step (c) are heated at a temperature of from about 85°C to about 210°C to form surface crosslinked superabsorbent polymer particles; and

(d) from about 0.5 to about 20 wt.% by weight of a water insoluble inorganic metal compound coated onto the surface of the superabsorbent polymer particles including wherein the coating includes a metal salt based on the dry superabsorbent polymer composition;

wherein the coated surface crosslinked superabsorbent polymer composition has a delayed free water absorption property of absorbing about 3.6 grams or less of water per gram of superabsorbent polymer in about 15 seconds.

30. (New) The coated surface crosslinked superabsorbent polymer composition of claim 29 wherein after element d) the coated SAP is dried at a temperature of about 100°C for about 1 hour.

31. (New) The coated surface crosslinked superabsorbent polymer composition claim 10 wherein after element b) the coated SAP is dried at a temperature of about 100°C for about 1 hour.